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June 22, 2004

Valley of the Sun Employers Recognized as Best Workplaces for Commuters by EPA

Phoenix, AZ – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated 60 Valley companies as “Best Workplaces for Commuters.” On Wednesday, June 23rd, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives will be joined by Vice Mayor Peggy Bilsten, Win Holden, chairman of the board for the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and other Valley leaders for a press conference to announce the companies awarded the National Standard of Excellence by the EPA. The event will take place from 10:00 – 11:00 am at the Bank One Ballpark, located at 401 E. Jefferson. Parking will be available in the BOB parking structure, south of the ballpark. Security will direct participants to open parking.

Win Holden said, “These companies are setting the standard all companies, large and small, should aspire to. Their commitment to both cleaner air and a better quality of life for their employees deserves our appreciation and recognition. They are paving an easier path for all Valley commuters.”

To be selected as a “Best Workplace for Commuters,” employers must offer their employees one major commute benefits such as employer-provided transit passes, vanpool subsidies, or have a significant telework program. At least three supporting benefits like preferred parking for carpools, a ridematching program, participation in an ozone awareness program, bicycle facilities or incentives to encourage alternative mode use must also be offered. EPA’s program manager Stephen Offutt said, “These companies make a real commitment to their employees to support efforts to keep the air clean. Their financial support benefits the larger community and the ‘Best Workplaces for Commuters’ award is a real point of pride.”

The “Best Workplaces for Commuters” program is a United States EPA/DOT voluntary partnership between businesses, federal, state, and local government; and communities to promote commuting benefits that enhance quality of life by reducing air pollution, traffic congestion, stress, taxes and transportation costs. This program was established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to publicly recognize employers whose commuter benefits meet or exceed the *National Standard of Excellence* established by the EPA. Employees are 8 times more likely to use public transit if their employer pays for it.

The Valley of the Sun’s Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition, headed by Valley Metro, includes the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Maricopa County, Maricopa Association of Governments, The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Valley Forward, The East Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance and the EPA. The coalition was instrumental in marketing the BWC program to employers throughout the Valley and supporting its goals.

About Valley Metro/RPTA: *Valley Metro/RPTA (The Regional Public Transportation Authority) is a political subdivision of the State of Arizona overseen by a board of elected officials. Membership is open to all municipalities in Maricopa County and to the county government. As members of the RPTA, each municipality must spend Local Transportation Assistance Funds (LTAF) - revenues from the Arizona Lottery - on public transportation. A municipality with a population of 300,000 or more must spend all of its funds on transit services. Municipalities of 60,000 or more must commit at least one-third of their LTAF funds to transit services and those areas with a population of less than 60,000 must commit three quarters of their LTAF funds to transit services.*

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